

# CHRISTCHURCH JUNIOR SCHOOL

## YEAR 4 SPRING TERM 2022

### **WELCOME BACK**

We are delighted to welcome our Year 4 classes back from their Christmas holidays. We hope you all had a lovely break and managed to spend time with your families without too much disruption. As ever, we continue to strive for excellence through our learning and our contribution to school life. We look forward to an exciting and busy term ahead which includes getting out and about to extend our knowledge outside of the classroom (see below for details).

### **ENGLISH**

We have exciting story writing opportunities this term where we will be reading and creating stories including a traditional folk tale linked to our Europe topic. We will also be exploring character profiles and how the author uses language to create effects whilst reading *A Bad Beginning* by Lemony Snicket.

Our non-fiction based learning will include a range of recounts and persuasive writing. Reading a variety of texts will form an integral part of our English lessons. We will also continue to make full use of the school library having been inspired by our Christchurch Library visit.

### **MATHEMATICS**

In maths we follow the Maths No Problem curriculum, which is a 'Maths for mastery approach to teaching maths'. Through this the children will be developing fluency (quick and accurate arithmetic skills) with number and applying appropriate strategies to support reasoning and solving real life problems. It would be helpful if children were encouraged to apply their maths at home, e.g. telling the time, working out change when shopping, measuring amounts for baking, etc.

Practising times tables is incredibly important and the children will be tested on all times tables facts in the summer term. Please continue to encourage the use of Times Tables Rock Stars.

### **COMPUTING**

This term we will be learning to use Excel. We will start by exploring how to populate cells and use cell grid references. After that the children will then learn how to create tables and charts from collected data.

### **SCIENCE**

We will begin this year with the Science topic of Animals and their Skeletons. We will be thinking about the functions of various bones in the body and what helps them to move. We will also investigate whether bone size differs between male and females and how bones heal if they are broken.

### **MODERN FOREIGN LANGUAGES**

This term, in addition to learning more vocabulary in context, we will be looking at Easter in Spain and France. We will also conduct some map work to locate and learn the names of important geographical locations in these countries.

### **GEOGRAPHY**

After half term, we will be focussing our learning on the continent of Europe. We will develop our understanding of reading maps using grid references and compass points. We will identify some of the main countries within Europe focussing on their key physical and human characteristics.

### **RELIGIOUS EDUCATION**

In Religion the children will focus on two units. The first will be looking at the relationship between the Jewish people and God. They will learn about the Jewish Passover. The second unit will be based on Christianity, focusing on Easter and the theme of forgiveness.

### **MUSIC**

In music this term, we will be looking at programmatic music based on water. We will be improvising and composing our own music based on Saint Saen's *Aquarium* and Smetna's *Vltava*. We will be looking at collecting sounds that can be found at beaches and putting them together to create sound pictures.

## **HISTORY**

This term we will be learning about life as an Anglo-Saxon. We will investigate how Britain changed after the Romans left, what village life was like and who the key historical figures were during this period. We will also discover how the arrival of the Saxons affect our lives even today!

## **PHYSICAL EDUCATION AND GAMES**

Gym and outdoor Games will both be taught weekly.

Please ensure that children come to school on the days they have Gym or Games in their PE kit.

4CC Tuesday and Thursday

4SF Thursday and Friday

4VD Wednesday and Thursday

4PG Tuesday and Wednesday

Shoulder length hair should be tied back (boys and girls) and all jewellery removed. Newly pierced ears must be covered with tape supplied from home.

## **SWIMMING**

From 24th January, for 10 weeks, Year 4 will be swimming at Two Riversmeet Leisure Centre. A letter was sent home before Christmas, but feel free to message your class teacher if you have any questions.

## **ART AND DESIGN TECHNOLOGY**

During the Spring Term we will carry out a Salvador Dali artist study, culminating in children creating their own Dali style painting. We will also be planning and creating Easter cards.

## **HOME LEARNING**

In order to consolidate the children's learning, home learning tasks will be set each week.

The timetable for these tasks is as follows:

- Weekly spelling task handed out each Friday with words for children to learn. Children will also have weekly opportunities to try and attain their Spelling Badges.
- In addition, every child should read regularly at home – they should aim for an average of around 20 minutes at least 4 times per week. It would benefit your child greatly if, when they read aloud at home, they were encouraged to discuss the language, characters and plot lines. Encourage your child to read a balance of fiction and non-fiction. Each week, our Readers of the Week are asked to share their favourite book with the class.
- Please support your child in learning their multiplication and division facts as they will need to know up to 12 x 12 by the end of Year 4. They are required to play Times Tables Rock Star as part of their homework at least twice a week for around 10 minutes per session with a home learning target of at least 250 points per week. They will also be encouraged to gain their multiplication and division badges.

Thank you for your support with this.

## **TRIPS AND VISITS**

We are delighted to inform you that we will be visiting Blashford Lakes this term. We will be exploring the nature reserve, looking at different habitats and bug spotting. A letter will follow shortly with further details. We are also going to have a visit from Treehouse Theatre Company to bring our Anglo-Saxon learning to life.

Thank you.

We look forward to an enjoyable and productive year.

Mrs Cook

Miss Dibdin

Mr Foley

Mr Gorsuch

Year Leader

Class 4VD

Class 4SF

Class 4PG

Class 4CC